

SEA SUPREMACY RACE TO STRIP U. S. OF BILLIONS

Overproduction Is Menace
if England's Tonnage
Is Equalled.

COSTLY ERRORS BARED
Many American Vessels
Built in War Rush Prove
Worthless.

BRITISH HAVE BIG LEAD

Disposition of Ships of Central Powers Another Item
Against Yankee Craft.

"Supremacy of the seas" is a phrase which has come to have a familiar sound within the last year or two. It has done its bit in connection with the Administration's shipping programme. Through its use public interest has been stimulated to a vision of a vast fleet of merchant vessels carrying the American flag and American trade to all the ports of the world. Attainment of supremacy was to constitute America's declaration of maritime independence. It was to furnish the needed outlet for the surplus products of American industry. It was to assure national prosperity in perpetuity. All this and more in a flood of official oratory, delivered to the accompaniment of an outpouring of billions of American dollars. The view of the Shipping Board seems to have been that the royal route to supremacy was to be attained by building ships faster and in greater numbers than the other leading nations in this case—and continuing to build them on this basis until the British surplus of tonnage was converted into a deficit. In this way, it has been declared, America could regain in a short time the world leadership in shipping lost sixty years ago and held by the British. It has been challenged, until little more than a year ago.

Real Meaning of "Supremacy."
But "supremacy of the seas" means much more than the mere possession of a greater number of ships. It means the ability to produce more. They must be the right kind of ships and they must be capable of operating profitably in competition with other countries. A few months ago all these factors seemed reasonable. Even British opinion was conceding that under war conditions sea supremacy was within America's grasp. With the signing of the armistice and the subsequent developments, however, conditions have taken a different turn. To-day the question arises itself: "Is the supremacy implied in the ownership of a majority of the world's mercantile tonnage worth obtaining at the price which must be paid?"

A year ago a member of the British Cabinet, George N. Barnes, the representative for labor, arose in Parliament to discuss conditions in British shipping. Output had been decreasing. The workers were being accused of not putting forth enough effort. The British and the United States in January had each produced only fifty thousand odd gross tons of new shipping. Great Britain's sea losses had been more than 200,000 tons. For many months sinkings had been far in excess of new construction. In England, her ocean tonnage rapidly dwindling, had called upon the United States to build every ton of shipping possible. The situation was grave, Mr. Barnes said, and he added: "America has failed us so far as shipbuilding is concerned."

British Criticism Aroused.
Even Mr. Hurley's optimism failed to shake British scepticism. As late as last May Fairplay, a leading British shipping organ, was saying: "America is, in Mr. Hurley's opinion, the greatest enemy of the world's shipping nations of the world—the Mecca of the shipping trade." Without the least intention of being disrespectful to a great ally and friend on the other side of the Atlantic we may surely say that much of this is really American hot air. Our present task is to win the war, and if America will hurry up and help in this by turning out new tonnage we shall overlook all her somewhat indiscreet anticipations of what she was to have done, and also all her anticipations of cutting out present day Mecca of trade. And, somehow, even when we can dismiss the war from our thoughts, we need not very much afraid that America will deprive us of our shipbuilding honors after the war is over. America is much too big a country and has far too many industrial interests to concentrate on shipbuilding, as we, the Clyde and the Tyne do. She will be great, no doubt, but this country will be the Mecca for some time yet.

Only a month or two later, however, the British Government was being called upon in Parliament to take steps to prevent England from being outclassed as a maritime power. By the end of the summer British press and public were beginning to concede the British leadership was threatened. American shipbuilding was running at a phenomenal rate of England's every month, with every prospect of a progressive increase for an indefinite period. American shipyards were getting well into their stride and ships were being turned out at new records of speed almost weekly.

Call for Help Heard.
Estimates of the 1919 output of the United States shipyards are high as 5,000,000 gross tons, treble the amount built annually by all the shipyards of the world in the pre-war period and thirty times

Connecticut First State to Reject Dry Law

HARTFORD, Feb. 4.—Connecticut through the action of its Senate this afternoon is the first State to decline to ratify the Federal prohibition amendment. Forty-four States through their Legislatures have voted for ratification. It is believed that the Senate action definitely determines the attitude of this State, although the House of Representatives is expected to vote to ratify by a large margin. The House should vote to ratify the joint resolution upon which the vote was taken would be sent to the Senate for non-concurrent action. The Senate would have three ways in which to dispose of it—first, by a vote to adhere; second, to request a committee of conference, but if the resolution is unchanged there would be nothing to confer over; third, to recede and concur with the House. As the vote in the Senate was 14 to ratify, 20 against, and Senator Koppelman absent in California, legislative leaders believe the Senate would be unlikely to change its attitude.

NEW YORK WETS WOULD 'EVEN UP'

Plan Legislation to Take
"Kick" Out of Extracts
and Toilet Waters.

MOVE SURPRISE TO DRY

Proposed Law Would Bar Sale
of Many Standard Prepara-
tions in State.

Special Dispatch to The Sun.
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ALBANY, Feb. 4.—Legislation which aims to put the sale of liquor and all products containing alcohol on a common footing, and thus defeat the plans of those who—as the wets see it—plan to reap heavy profits from the sale of certain patent medicines, flavoring extracts and other liquids containing alcohol after the sale of liquor is no longer possible in the State, will be offered in a series of bills, the first of which will be introduced in the Assembly to-morrow. The wets have planned this legislation as a surprise for the dries. They will offer it in four bills, which in the main provide that no liquid containing more than 10 per cent. of alcohol may be sold for any purpose, and that all local option laws be made inoperative until national prohibition goes into effect January 16, 1920. The bill to be offered to-morrow deals with the percentage of alcohol in liquids of all kinds. It provides that it shall be lawful to sell for beverage purposes liquids containing not more than 10 per cent. alcohol and unlawful to sell proprietary medicines, flavoring extracts and the like containing more than 10 per cent. of alcohol. The other bills in the programme provide: That the city local option law—under which many cities voted dry a year ago—shall be made inoperative until January, 1920. That the town local option law, which is a part of the liquor tax law, shall be made inoperative concurrently with the city option law. That such portions of the liquor tax law as still remain on the statute books as of January 16, 1920, be then declared repealed. The effect of the bills rendering the city and town local option laws inoperative would be to take from any place in the State its choice of going dry or wet, and thus assure the liquor interests continued sale of their product until national prohibition takes effect. During the prohibition fight the wets charged the dries with being hypocritical in their position, in that those who wanted liquor could get all the patent medicines they wanted, containing an enormous percentage of alcohol. They say that some of the medicines have as high as 40 per cent. alcohol, and that in order to prevent anyone from getting liquor when the country is supposed to be dry, they want to pass their new bill shutting off the sale of these patent remedies. "Those who have examined the bills declare that the '10 per cent.' measure would be not only to shut off the sale of patent medicines but also to prevent the use of perfume, hair cream and other toilet articles which contain a big percentage of alcohol. Certain flavoring extracts also would be banned. The dries are not saying much, but they indicate that such legislation as this proposed '10 per cent.' bill and the '5 per cent.' measure that has been talked of will be fought to the limit. As to permitting the sale of 2 per cent. beer and light wines, some of the dries are not so sure of their stand. In the meantime the Clyde-Saloon League has completed the drafting of its law enforcement bill, and copies of it were brought to Albany today by its counsel. The measure proposes the creation of a law enforcement department, but provides for the retention in this office of the present Commissioner of Excise, Herbert H. Brown, who is a Republican. Some of the Republicans doubt the constitutionality of this method of keeping Mr. Brown in office to prevent the Democratic Governor from naming a law enforcement commissioner.

Pennsylvania House Ratifies.
HARRISBURG, Pa., Feb. 4.—The joint resolution ratifying the prohibition amendment to the Federal Constitution was adopted to-day by the lower branch of the Pennsylvania Legislature. The vote was 110 to 83. The number of votes required to pass the resolution was 104. The resolution now goes to the Senate for concurrence. **HARTSHORNE, PALES & CO., Members**
N. Y. Stock Exchange, 7 Wall St.—Ado.

GREAT BRITAIN THREATENED BY GENERAL STRIKE

Attempt to Use Steam Cars
in Tube Ties Up
Union Leaders.

GRAVE ALARM IS FELT

Electrical Works Issue Ul-
timumum Demanding
40 Hour Week.

BIG POWER HOUSE IDLE

Government Officials Hold
All Day Conference With
Laborites.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.
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LONDON, Feb. 4.—The industrial troubles of Great Britain seriously threaten the entire transport services of the country, and the situation, which gradually is becoming worse, to-day is causing dismay and uneasiness among all those concerned in public services. The demand of the electrical trade union for a forty hour week in all trades, under a threat to cut off the electrical supply of London, can fairly be stated as an ultimatum to the Government, which hitherto has refused to negotiate in regard to hours of labor but is discussing the demand of some of the unions. A disquieting phase of the struggle is the closing by the electricians of the great power house in Chelsea which provides electricity for all the underground railways except the Metropolitan. A number of the tram services in the outer London district which utilize both steam and electricity have been relying for some time on steam alone. As a result of this expedient the locomotive drivers now have been called out by their union, which declares it will call a national strike if the men's demands are refused. This would make possible a call upon the Transport Workers' Federation, which comprises railwaymen, miners and vehicle workers' unions. Throughout the day negotiations have been going on between the Government and the railway clerks and station masters, who demand recognition of a strike to-night. The ultimatum of the electricians expires on Thursday evening. The conference with the Ministry of Labor to-day proved futile. The Irish conservative members are trying to persuade the Belfast strikers to return to work, promising to bring up the question of hours in the House of Commons at the earliest possible moment.

GOVERNMENT ACTS TO PACIFY STRIKERS

Hotel Patrons Forced to Ac-
cept Short Food Rations.

LONDON, Feb. 4.—The Cabinet and various Government Departments concerned in the labor troubles have been active to-day seeking a solution of the difficulties. There have been numerous interviews and conferences with representatives of the strike movements and Baron Pritt, Controller-General of the railway clerks' organization. In a general way the Government has decided to make a number of concessions in strikes not authorized by trade unions, but at the same time directing its influence toward inducing the strikers to return to work. The Government is also endeavoring to bring about a settlement of the railway clerks' strike. In a general way the Government has decided to make a number of concessions in strikes not authorized by trade unions, but at the same time directing its influence toward inducing the strikers to return to work. The Government is also endeavoring to bring about a settlement of the railway clerks' strike. In a general way the Government has decided to make a number of concessions in strikes not authorized by trade unions, but at the same time directing its influence toward inducing the strikers to return to work. The Government is also endeavoring to bring about a settlement of the railway clerks' strike.

Shipping Situation Improves.

The situation on the Clyde and at Belfast is improving. An increasing number of men are remaining at work in the Glasgow district, while a hopeful feeling prevails in Belfast, where Sir Edward Carson has promised to bring the question of a national reduction in hours before Parliament at the first opportunity. Baron Pritt, Controller-General of Merchant Shipping, has promised to receive a deputation of the strikers to-morrow. The thousands of Londoners who because of the shortage of domestic help during the war had become hotel dwellers went without breakfast this morning or were compelled to be satisfied with a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of bread. This situation was the result of the strike of the hotel workers, which began last night. The kitchen staffs, largely made up of foreigners, demand an eight-hour day and a 25 per cent. increase in wages. The waiters demand the abolition of the system under which their tips are pooled and divided with a commission deducted. They also demand a minimum wage of \$10 weekly for women and \$15 for men. The smaller hotels were able to attend

Continued on Third Page.
If you can save money
you can save your life.
Ask for particulars of
Partial Payment Plan.
John Malt Co., 6 W. 4th St.—Ado.

SENATE ORDERS NATIONAL BLOW AT BOLSHEVISM

Sweeping Investigation to
Bare "Red" Activity in
United States.

GROWING PERIL SHOWN

Institutions of Liberty Are
Seriously Menaced.
Speakers Warn.

BORAH FOR FIRM STAND

Urges Preaching of Ameri-
canism—Fiery Talk at
Theatre Stirs Action.

Special Dispatch to The Sun.
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WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The Senate has determined upon an investigation of the alleged development of Bolshevism in the United States, and the subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee, to which had been delegated the survey of the activities of the propagandists of Germanism, at once will direct its course of study to looking into the Soviet's movements in the United States. All this has been precipitated by the meeting of Bolsheviks and Bolshevik sympathizers held in a local theatre last Sunday, and at which the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the republic were denounced in just such scathing fashion as is employed by the delegates of the Workers' and Soldiers' Councils of Russia in condemning Czarism. The Senate is impressed that the tendency toward detronement of all organized government, which the Bolsheviks proclaim to the world as the only sure road to universal liberty, if not combat means trouble for the United States. **First Hand Scrutiny Urged.**
With the view of seeking the antidote they have decided to give the American Bolshevists a close first hand scrutiny. They will summon them to the committee room and ask them some questions and if the answers are not to the liking of the committee—and the committee has no idea that they will be—the investigation looking to the restraint of the propagandists of anarchy will be the immediate result. The first aim of the investigation will be to try to find out where financial support for the movement comes from. The committee will have the authority of the Senate for this investigation. It was carried in the following resolution introduced to-day by Senator Walsh (Conn.), which was immediately adopted by the Senate: Resolved, That the authority of the Committee on Judiciary conferred by Senate resolution No. 207 be and hereby is extended so as to include the investigation of the activities of the propagandists of anarchy in the United States, and to include the investigation of the activities of the propagandists of anarchy in the United States, and to include the investigation of the activities of the propagandists of anarchy in the United States.

LITHUANIAN TOWN CAPTURED BY REDS

Organize Army by Impressing
Military Experts.

COVENE, Feb. 4.—In their advance from Vilnius the Bolsheviks have captured Vilnius, forty-five miles north-northwest of Vilna, the capital of Lithuania, according to a report from Vilna. The first task of the Lithuanian Soviet Government is to send to Moscow and Petrograd great stocks of corn, sugar and coal from the Ukraine to strengthen the position of the Bolsheviks in those sections. **By the Associated Press.**
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Cannot Buy Good Smokes on the German Border

"WHERE we are the people smoke hay," writes Sergeant William H. Waltz from the Rhinisch frontier. He explains that when cigarettes arrived from America through THE SUN Tobacco Fund it made the boys enjoy life, and that to receive American cigarettes is a pleasure because they cannot be obtained there. Other messages from the soldiers overseas expressing thanks for gifts of tobacco, appear on page 7. **WARNING! THE SUN TOBACCO FUND has no connection with any other fund, organization or publication. It employs no agents or solicitors.**

WILSON LEAGUE PLAN FACES KNIFE; BAN ON COMPULSORY ARBITRATION; OPPOSITION OF FRANCE INCREASES

REDS SUMMON BIGGER ARMIES

All Russian Classes Between
Ages of 29 and 45 Are
Called to Colors.

SOVIET RULE IN UKRAINE

Great Food Stocks Sent to
Moscow and Petrograd—
300 Persons Massacred.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun from the London Times Service.
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HELSINKI, Feb. 4.—The executive committee of the Central Soviet at Moscow publishes a decree calling to the colors all classes between the ages of 29 and 45 in the Government of Petrograd, Moscow and nine other Governments. This, according to the official organ, *Sovetsky Kommunist (Northern Commune)*, is taken in order to make plain to the allied conference in Paris that the Soviet Government in accepting the proposal for the conference on Princes Islands is under no illusions, but is preparing the continuation of war on all fronts pending universal revolution. The situation in the Ukraine appears to be becoming critical in consequence of the undoubted successes of the Bolsheviks, who are masters of almost the whole of eastern Ukraine, including the great centres Kharkoff, Poltava, Ekaterinoslav and the mining region of Konez. According to Bolshevik newspapers the Ukraine Soviet Government at Kharkoff is an accomplished fact. The Prime Minister being the Socialist Rakovsky, a friend of Premier Lenin and a member of the Bolshevik delegation to Brest-Litovsk. The first act of the Ukraine Soviet Government, according to official Bolshevik statements, was the shooting of more than 300 political personages at Kharkoff and Ekaterinoslav and the confiscation of banks and industrial establishments. The first task of the Ukrainian Soviet Government is to send to Moscow and Petrograd great stocks of corn, sugar and coal from the Ukraine to strengthen the position of the Bolsheviks in those sections.

MILITARY RULE IN EAST PRUSSIA

State of Siege Declared in
Thorn District and Sparta-
cans Seize Buildings.

TROUBLE IN KOENIGSBURG

Clashes Occur in Bremen—
Communists Say They Are
Ready to Resign.

COVENE, Feb. 4.—A majority of the Government buildings in Koenigsburg, East Prussia, have been seized by Spartacists from Berlin. The Governor of East Prussia has declared a state of siege in the Thorn district and instituted court-martial. The members of the Imperial Government of Germany arrived in Weimar yesterday. They took up their residence in the palace and later held a cabinet meeting. **By the Associated Press.**
The Communist People's Commissioners of Bremen have declared their readiness to resign and to form a new government to be composed of men from all the Socialist parties on the basis of the vote cast in the election. The armed workers have agreed to surrender their arms to the Soldiers' Councils of Hamburg and Bremerhaven. Thereupon the Commissioners will ask the Government to withdraw the German Division. The Berlin Government has demanded the formation of a government on the basis of the elections to the National Assembly, namely from the Majority Socialist and bourgeois parties, excluding the Spartacists, and the surrender of arms to the National Assembly. The Government has demanded the formation of a government on the basis of the elections to the National Assembly, namely from the Majority Socialist and bourgeois parties, excluding the Spartacists, and the surrender of arms to the National Assembly.

Lloyd George Impatiently Charges Wilson With Seeking to Dodge All Responsibility

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.
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PARIS, Feb. 4.—Stronger pressure is being brought to bear upon President Wilson almost daily to have the United States undertake the trusteeship, under the League of Nations, of Palestine and other parts of the former Turkish possessions. Oddly enough it is the British, who conquered Palestine from the Turks, who are the leaders in the movement to make the United States the mandatory for that region. It is reported that at a recent meeting of the "big five," when the disposition of the colonies and conquered country was under discussion, Premier Lloyd George turned to President Wilson and with a trace of impatience said: "You are wanting every one else to try this thing, but you are not willing to take any responsibility yourself." The President has opposed all these suggestions so far, but the demand is becoming more insistent that the Americans should take up the "white man's burden" imposed by the league fathered by their President. The British argument is that the United States is in a peculiar position in regard to Palestine, not only because of her own large Jewish population, but for the reason that it seems to be agreed that the Holy Land should remain always neutral, and this can be guaranteed, it is generally believed, only by its control by a non-European Power, and the disinterestedness of the United States is admitted by every one. It is realized fully by the President that sentiment in the United States would not support him in such a course and the indignation voiced by the Republicans would find a wide popular echo, especially if the transaction involved sending American troops to Palestine, whether temporarily or as a permanent police force.

EXPECTS TO FIX GREEK CLAIMS

Commission of Eight to Sug-
gest Just Settlement of Ter-
ritorial Questions.

ITALY MAKES AN OFFER

Ready to Give Up Aegean Is-
lands for Mandatory Power
Over Asia Minor Vilayet.

PARIS, Feb. 4.—The Supreme Council at its meeting to-day agreed that questions in the statement of Premier Venizelos concerning Greek territorial interests in the peace settlement should be referred to a commission of experts whose duty it would be to make recommendations for a just settlement. This official statement was issued: The President of the United States, the Prime Ministers and Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the United States, the British Empire, France, Italy and Japan met this morning at the Quai d'Orsay from 11 to 12 o'clock. M. Venizelos made a statement regarding Greek territorial interests in Asia Minor. The following resolution was approved: It is agreed that the questions raised in the statement by M. Venizelos on the Greek territorial interests in the peace settlement shall be referred for examination in the first instance to a committee of experts composed of two representatives each of the United States of America, the British Empire, France and Italy. It shall be the duty of this committee to make recommendations for a just settlement. The committee is authorized to consult with the representatives of the peoples concerned. The next meeting will take place to-morrow, February 5, at 3 P. M., when the Czech-Slovak delegates will be heard. Foreign Minister Scialoja of Italy and Premier Venizelos have conferred in an effort to negotiate the conflicting territorial ambitions of Italy and Greece, particularly with reference to the claims of Greece to islands in the Aegean Sea. It is understood that Italy would be willing to turn over to Greece the islands in the Aegean which Italy took from Turkey in the Tripolitan war if Italy in turn is given mandatory power for a part of Asia Minor. Italy, it is understood, would like to have this power for the vilayet of Adalia. So far as is known, there has been no approach to a settlement of Greek claims in Northern Epirus.

SUCCEEDS VON WINTERFELD.

Baron von Hammerstein Now on
Armistice Duty.

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 4.—Gen. Baron von Hammerstein, according to a dispatch from Berlin, has been appointed to succeed Gen. von Winterfeldt as the leading military delegate on the German armistice commission.

BRITISH APPLY CENSORSHIP.

Cologne Gazette Suspended for
Disobedience.

Special Wireless Dispatch to The Sun from the London Times Service.
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CONSTANCE, Feb. 4.—The important Rhineland industrial newspapers of the German People's party, the Cologne Gazette, which up to the time of the revolution was the chief semi-official newspaper of Germany, has been suspended by the British military censor until February 10 because of failure to submit considerable news. The same fate has befallen the smaller Cologne Tageblatt. Both newspapers had received several warnings.

German news agencies try the expedient of interpolating in the middle of a long despatch a sentence or two with news they want to convey, hoping the censor will not take the trouble to read the long message.

President's Proposals in Danger of Complete Emasculation.

JAPAN ENTERS FOLD

Adopts Principle for First
Time, but Has Sugges-
tions to Offer.

RATIFICATION UNCERTAIN

With Teeth Drawn, Document
Is About Same as Bryan
Treaties.

By LAURENCE HILLS.
Staff Correspondent of THE SUN.
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PARIS, Feb. 4.—The plan of the League of Nations upon which President Wilson has built his hopes is now in danger of complete emasculation. These are the outstanding features of the negotiations to-day: 1. Compulsory arbitration, which was to be the binding medium and the crux of the President's plan, is temporarily, possibly permanently out of the league plan, and while some form of coercive force to prevent wars from becoming general still is retained it is not known in what way this is to be applied. 2. Japan has adopted the league plan for the first time, expressing her sympathy with its general principles and asking for an opportunity to submit some suggestions, without any desire, however, to obstruct progress. 3. France's lack of sympathy with the league is increasing and it is evident it is making it unlikely that the constitution of the league will be ratified by the conference before President Wilson sails for the United States, or even that it will emerge from the committee which is at work upon it. 4. The President is assured by his experts that the constitution of the league is strictly within the American Constitution, as every point has been framed carefully with the Constitution in mind. **Plan Draws Heavy Fire.**
The first draft of the details of the league, as THE SUN predicted, has drawn a concentrated fire on many features, the chief being compulsory arbitration, which would compel the signatories to submit their differences to arbitration under threat that the combined Powers of the league would be used against them. With the idea of superseding already discarded the elimination of this feature would leave apparently only the force of moral condemnation and little or no basis for the league's mandates. It is impossible to see now much more in the League of Nations than is in the Bryan arbitration treaties, for the guarantee of the world's peace would rest chiefly on the moral power of the league, which many have contended would be insufficient to induce the nations materially to reduce their armaments and do away with their present safeguards. It is evident that the President is disturbed over the situation which has arisen in the last two days, confirming many predictions that the real trouble would come when the plan was put on paper. Even Lord Robert Cecil and the President are unable to agree as yet upon the framing of certain features, although they stand together on the fundamentals. It was learned late to-night that the plan is likely to provide that all international disputes must be settled either by arbitration, by mediation or by a formal inquiry. Any one of these courses would enable the League of Nations to discover the facts in any quarrel and would provide it with a basis on which it could decide which of the parties to the dispute must be coerced.

SAVE THE KAISER'S SOCIETIES.

German Organists to Keep Him
Out of Allies' Hands.

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 4.—Societies to "Save the Kaiser" from being handed over to the Allies are being organized in Germany, according to the *Volks Zeitung* of Osnabruck. Elfed Frederick, second son of the former Emperor, is said to have written a letter to Premier Ebert demanding that the Government assist in the plan.

THE PLAZA

Dinner Dances in Grill-Room
From 1:30 Until Close.—Ado.